

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE ENGLISH NATION.

Thursday, October 10. 1706.

IN my pursuing the Discourse of the Union with *Scotland*, I know no Question more difficult to answer, than which Nation shall be the greatest Gainers by it? I know, 'tis an invidious Question, and put for ill Purposes; but I defy any of the Proposers to say, which they will prove shall be the greatest Gainers. The Advantages are infinite, unaccountable, and as Times go, incredible on both sides; but to say on which side the greatest, I will not undertake to determine.

Negatively, I'll undertake to say, who shall be Losers by it, or at least who shall be no Gainers; and, in this Enquiry, if I touch some too sensibly, who have been a long time damning this Union, and drinking Confusion to it; I shall be sorry, but more for their sakes than my own.

First, Gentlemen, assure your selves, the *French* King and his Interest will be exceeding Losers by this Union; all the Hopes they had laid up, all the Expectations they had form'd to themselves, from either, (1.) The Confusions which should over run all *Britain*, the Blood and Destruction that should necessarily follow a Breach with *Scotland*, and the Miseries, Poverty, Loss of Trade, Devastation of Countries, and Ruin of People, which would be the Consequence, to the weakening both Nations, and thereby giving them the more Leisure, as well as the more Power to insult both, on Occasion; Or, (2.) from the weakening the Powers of both Kingdoms, by turning the Swords of two valiant People into the Bowels of one another, which might otherwise spread their victorious Ensigns in the Heart

Heart of their Country ; all these will be lost.

2ly. All the Money, if be has parted with any on that Head, which the French King has dispers'd among the treacherous and unfaithful in either Nation, in order to blow up the Coals of Division and Dissention between the Kingdoms, to asperse the Union, calumniate, expose, banter, and ridicule the Design, as such ; in order to raise Mists of Doubts, Fogs of Scruple, and Storms of Apprehension in the timorous, tho' well meaning on both sides ——— In order to shut the Eyes of those that see, and keep them from Illuminations, who do not ; All this Money will be lost.

3ly. All the Emissaries of France, for such I must call them, tho' they labour without Fees, who blindly do their Work, and promote their Interest, tho' they do not see it, in meer Gratification to their own Prejudices, who hate the Union from a Nature averse to Union it self ; and above all abhor a Union with Scotland from inbred uncultivated Spleen, built on no regular Foundations, pointed to no direct End ——— Hereditary Enemies of the Scots, who rail at them because their Fathers did so, and think 'tis impossible to unite them, because in former Ages it was so, or rather seem'd to be so ; all these Peoples Labour will be lost, and the Generation of them will cease from the Earth ; for they will be made wiser against their Wills ; and if they do not live to call themselves Fools, their Children will do it for them.

4ly. All those flegmatick Gentlemen, who meaning well on either side, are turn'd melancholly upon the Subject, and the Prospect of the Union has given them the Hypo ; who raise Spectres in their Imagination, and then start at them, as if they were real ; that are poring upon remote Consequences, and rummaging Futurity for *may be's*, and *may not be's*, supposing our Posterity to have no more Wit than our selves. All these Gentlemens Labour and Travel will be lost, in attempting to convince the World, 1. That the Church of England is in Danger from the Union with Scotland, and that Presbytery will over-run them ; tho' put all the Dissenters in England, and Presbyterians

in Scotland into a List, and they make not above one to nine of the Church of England Number in Britain. 2. That the Kirk of Scotland is in Danger, tho' its Establishment remains confirm'd by this Treaty, as a Part of the Constitution settled by Consent of both Nations, sworn to by the Sovereign, and agreed to be declar'd a fundamental unalterable Establishment, but by Consent of the People of Scotland ; and that they are not deny'd, any farther or other Security for it, that they can think reasonable to demand ; and above all, the Labour of those Gentlemen will be lost, who go about to reconcile these two contraries ; how both these Churches can be in Danger at once, and how Union can tend to two such Contraries in one and the same Channel.

I confess, I cannot but think, this very thing is enough to open the Eyes of one, whose Understanding was born blind, and were it not a thing of vast Consequence, it would deserve to be treated with some Levity. But what is it that a diligent Party will not run into ? How many Absurdities have these Gentlemen started among us in other Cases, as contrary to these, and not altogether unlike them ? and it would be endless to run back into their Tacking Absurdities, their Occasional Bill, Inconsistencies, their High-Church Enigmas, which to this Day no body but themselves can understand ; That the Church is in Danger from a Church of England QUEEN, a Church of England Parliament, nay from the very Bishops themselves.

What cannot such People offer to the World ? What can be too absurd for them to suggest ? and while on one side, they insinuate into the Presbyterians in Scotland, or some of them that are qualify'd to receive it, that their Kirk is in Danger ; and into the Dissenters in England, that their Toleration is in Danger. Methinks the Vapour of such an aery Imagination should be a Cloud too thin to cover the Cheat from the Eyes of the World, and therefore I cannot but think, and hope too, that all these Peoples Labour will be lost.

These are some of those who will be Losers by the Union : I shall enquire farther into it in my next.

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IN the last Paper, I touch'd lightly the visible Effects of our Victory abroad, upon Trade at home; I told you by my own Observation, how strangely the Battle of *Ramellies* had open'd the Flood-gates of *Flanders*, and how our Manufactures flow'd in; how our Goods rise, our Poor are supply'd with Work, and our Clothiers made glad; and I instanc'd in the Towns of *Leeds*, *Hallifax*, *Huddersfield*, &c. in the West-Riding of *Yorkshire*——

Upon reading that Thought, it was a very natural Question put to me, by one that had more Wit than to want Information. *Pray*, says he, *are there any Jacobites or High-Flyers in these Towns?* My Answer is short, what there are there of those Kind of Gentlemen, I shall not examine; but surely, if there are any there, and any of them concern'd in the Manufactures, they must be strange People; they must sin against their Eye-sight, and sin against their Interest, or they must immediately throw up the Cause, and acknowledge themselves in the wrong.

Is it possible for any Manufacturer to wish, the *French* had not been beaten at *Ramellies*; is it not to wish the whole Manufacture sunk again, the poor out of Work, and the Trade decay'd; but above all, is it not to wish 15 per Cent. out of his own Pocket, and sacrifice his Interest to his Party Zeal?

Not that I think 'tis much of a Novelty to find the Gentlemen of that Party acting against their own Interest; 'Tis evident they do that so many ways, that it would be endless to repeat, and they must be left to be told so by their Posterity, or by their dear bought Experience, when 'tis too late to repent, or at least to remedy the Injury.

But the Currency of Trade, the Reviving of Manufacturing, the Rise and Demand of our Goods, these are such convincing clinching Arguments, such Home Thrusts at the Pretences of those Gentle-

men, and they chop so into the very Mouths of every plain Mechanick, that they must stand the brunt of being contradicted by the meanest of their Inferiours; and if they persist in arguing so visibly against Fact, the Countrymen, who feel the pleasing Influence in their constant Advantages, will quickly learn to condemn them, and they will at last be the Jest of the Nation.

'Tis evident now what we have been fighting for; what we have paid such Taxes for; Victory will make us full Amends, it will open the Doors of Trade, which have been shut by the War, and the Fluency of Trade would restore to us the Circulation of our Money, and raise the drooping Spirits of our discourag'd People.

In the mean time here's an Earnest, and I give the Hint to remind our People, what the Joy will be, when one Victory more shall open the *Spanish* Trade to us? When the Encroachments of *France* shall no longer turn the Channel of the *South-Sea* Wealth from *Cadiz* to *St. Malo*, fill the *Spanish West-Indies* with Toys and French Trifles, instead of substantial Manufactures, and prevent that Flux of Bullion coming hither, which would fill us with Current Coin.

What a strange Kind of Creature is a *Jacobite*, or rather a *High-Flying Tory*? that while he is a Member of the Commonwealth, an *Englishman*, and above all a Manufacturer, that yet he should not be mov'd by all these, to rejoyce at these Victories——That he should not laugh on both sides his Mouth, when the Triumphs of his Native Country have such serious, such visible, and such very beneficial Effects, even in the nearest and most weighty Concern of Trade.

'Tis an evident and self-convincing Testimony, that the Gentlemen, who are call'd *High-Flyers*, are not really in the true Interest of their native Country——*The French are beaten, and we are all undone*, said a certain Gentleman, who in respect to